



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

P. O. Box 69
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

February 3, 1981

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DR. SEC
FILE

Memorandum

To: Files

From: District Mining Supervisor, Albuquerque District, SCR

Subject: Additional Exploration Drilling Within Navajo Allotted Uranium Lease NOO-C-14-20-8396, Todilto Exploration and Development Corporation

An original exploration plan for the subject lease was approved by the U. S. Geological Survey June 23, 1980. This plan proposed the drilling of 165 exploration boreholes with the possibility of an additional 1,000 fill-in boreholes. The environmental documentation (EA and FONSI) and written approval of the plan did not address the possibility of additional fill-in drilling, but the EA of the plan did discuss the cumulative impacts of exploration operations. According to the EA, "Uranium exploration drilling operations have minimal cumulative impacts because reclamation and the abandonment are performed contemporaneously with drilling". A July 24, 1980, field inspection of the leasehold revealed that the exploration operations were being conducted in accordance with the lease terms, approved exploration plan, and USGS uranium exploration drilling requirements.

In September 1980, Mr. Tim Pearson, Exploration Geologist with TEDCO, notified me that some additional fill-in drilling would be necessary. Since the original exploration plan included the possibility of this additional drilling, I verbally authorized Mr. Pearson to proceed, and a total of 329 boreholes have now been completed within the leasehold. A field inspection of this exploration will be conducted in the near future, to assure compliance with lease terms, exploration plan provisions, and USGS requirements. According to Mr. Pearson, drilling is not expected to resume for some time.

(ORIG. SGD.) DALE C. JONES
Dale C. Jones

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